(d) the reasons for re-operating this Council by Government and Government's assessment of the annual expenditure, so far, for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The All India Council of sports was first set up in 1954 as a body of sports experts to advise Government on all matters relating to promotion of sports and games. The same was existing continuously from that time with periodic reconstitution. However, after the setting up of Sports Authority of India (SAI), it was felt that the continuance of AICS is unnecessary and the same be abolished. Accordingly, the AICS was abolished in April, 1984.

(d) Over the years, SAI has been performing multifarious functions and it has progressively tended to become engaged in day to day matters not leaving enough time and focus for policy planning directed towards long term promotion and development of sports in the country. In these circumstances, Government has decided to revive the All India Council of Sports as an advisory body, which could recommend useful and productive lines of action to the Government in the overall interest of sports and games in the country. There is no budget provision for the AICS in this year's budget of the Ministry.

Developing National Institute of Sports at Patiala as Deemed University

1913. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the postiion of the National Institute of Sports at Patiala, which was once proposed to be developed as Deemed University, with similar Institutes at Bangalore, Kolkata, etc.; and

(b) whether Government propose to revive the proposal, with courses like Physiotherapy, Occupational Thereapy, Prosthetics and Orthotics, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The National Institute of Sports, now known as SAI Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) Patiala, is a premier Institute of Sports in the country. It was set up by the Government in 1961 and is now a part of the Academic Wing of Sports Authority of India (SAI) for coaches. Apart from conducting various academic courses, the national camps for preparing teams for different disciplines are also held at NSNIS, Patiala. In 1993, the matter regarding granting Deemed University Status was taken up by NSNIS, Patiala with the UGC under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. This, however, did not materialize and it was decided that NSNIS may continue to be an Institute of national importance.

(b) No, Sir.

Youth hostels in Assam

1914. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youth hostels set up, so far, in Assam, location-wise;

(b) the number of hostels proposed to be set up, in the State, location-wise; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) There are 4 youth hostels constructed in Assam at Nawgaon, Guwahati, Golaghat & Tezpur.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to set up new hostels in Assam.